



CITY OF



WELLS

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1938

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF WELLS.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1938.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector.

The Medical Officer of Health has held the post since April 1st, 1938, and he holds the following degrees : M.B., Ch.B.

The Sanitary Inspector has held his position for 19 years, and holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances).

The area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the Mid-year Resident population of Wells in 1938 is 5,250.

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1938 was 1,617.

The Rateable Value at the end of 1938 was £40,207.

The sum represented by a penny rate at the end of 1938 was £160.

Wells is a small Cathedral City with no special industries that have any influence on the health of the inhabitants.

The number of unemployed at the end of 1938 was 229.

BIRTH RATE.

The total live Births in the City in 1938 was :—

Legitimate 67 ; Males 39, Females 28.

Illegitimate, 1 ; Male 1.

There was one still birth—a male.

The rate of still-births per thousand live births was 14.49.

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 13.14.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There was only one death in the city of infants under one year—a male.

The infant mortality per thousand births was 14.7.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

There was an epidemic of Whooping Cough during the summer.

Apart from Tuberculosis, only two notifiable diseases were notified during the summer, one of Scarlet Fever and one of Pneumonia.

There were no deaths from any epidemic diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, one male and one female.

There were two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, both females.

DEATH RATE.

There were 62 deaths in the city during 1938, 24 males and 38 females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

There were 10 deaths from Cancer : 1 male and 9 females.

There were 22 deaths from Heart Diseases : 10 male and 12 female.

The death rate per thousand of the population was 11.81.

There were no cases of Bug Infestation during the year.

In the City there is a General Hospital with 40 beds, an X-ray Room and an Operating Theatre. There are 3 fully-trained Nurses at this Hospital, and 4 other Nurses.

There is a Public Assistance Institution with 63 Beds in the Infirmary, 5 of which are for children.

There are 104 Beds in this Institution for Inmates apart from those in the Infirmary : the Matron of this Institution is a fully qualified Nurse.

There is a Motor Ambulance belonging to the City, which is used to move cases of accident or illness, and which is adequate for the area.

There is a St. John Ambulance Brigade and a Detachment of V.A.D. Nurses. These both help in any emergency, and the V.A.D. Nurses help the three District Nurses, all of whom are fully-trained ; one of the District Nurses acts as a Maternity Nurse.

There is a Private Maternity Home in the City, which can accommodate 12 cases ; the Matron of the Home is a fully-trained Maternity Nurse.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water is obtained at the foot of the Mendip Hills, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the City, and gravitates to two Service Reservoirs $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away and situated at Milton.

A permanent Pumping Station covering the Pumping Plant and Borehole on the Athletic Ground belonging to the Corporation has been erected, and a 6-inch main has been laid from the Pumping Station at the Athletic Ground to the Service Reservoirs at Milton, the distance being just over one mile. This auxiliary supply has been quite satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

An analysis was made by Messrs. Beale & Suckling, Counties Public Health Laboratories, on 18th September, 1933, who reported on 29th September, 1933, that the water is pure and wholesome, suitable for the purposes of a Public Supply. A further satisfactory analysis has been made by the County Analyst on 18th May, 1939.

5,000 gallons per hour can be pumped from the new Borehole on the Athletic Ground.

A new 6-inch main has been laid from New Street to the Cottage Hospital in Bath Road.

The inflow to the Reservoir from the existing Spring at Holes Ash, Rookham, was 130,000 gallons per day in May 1938, and 270,000 gallons in December 1938.

It is proposed to supplement the existing 5in., 4in. and 3in. Water Mains which serve the City and were laid many years ago, by 10in., 9in. and 6in. pipes. The present system of Mains has become inadequate to deal with the population as, since their installation, extensions have been made to serve Wookey Hole, the Bath Road and the Municipal Housing Sites. Together with this there has been a considerable amount of private development in the City and District and an enlargement of the Borough under the County Revision Order of 1st April, 1933.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Works are situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles West of the City, at Burcott. They consist of a Receiving Chamber with an overflow for Storm Water, two Detritus Tanks, three Chemical Precipitation Tanks, total capacity 187,000 gallons ; three Sand Beds 100 feet by 60 feet used as Secondary Tanks ; one Percolating Filter when full containing 734 cubic yards of Media ; ten Cresset Rotary Filters, two Storm Water Tanks and about 10 acres of land for irrigation.

The Wilts United Dairies have a scheme on their own land for dealing with their waste. This comprises two Tanks, two Ejectors, and one 75 feet Rotary Sprinkler, with Media 6 feet deep, but owing to using their factory now for the manufacture of Crustless Cheese, their Effluent is again received untreated in the City Sewers after analyses.

The Sewers of the City are in good working order.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

The House Refuse Collection in the City is carried out daily by means of a Scammel Refuse Lorry.

SWIMMING POOL.

A New Open-Air Swimming Pool 100ft. by 35ft. has been constructed in Prince's Road, with the necessary cubicles for both sexes, offices, cafe and Sun-bathing Terraces.

HOUSING.

One hundred and eighty-six Houses have been built in the City as part of the Municipal Housing Scheme.

Number of houses erected during the year :---

Total by Private Persons	....	....	....	13
As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	....	....	....	24

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	71
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	71
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing and Consolidated Regulations 1925	....	....	....	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	Nil.
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	....	Nil.
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	20

HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers....	....	....	20
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	....	....	Nil.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	Nil.
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	....	....	Nil.
	(a) By Owners	....	....	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	Nil.
(a) By Owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
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E. Overcrowding.

In 1936 there were 27 houses Overcrowded. In March of last Year Overcrowding had been abated at 16 of these, and a further 7 in December 1938. A new Survey is now in progress.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	7
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—	
(a) Distributors only	7
(b) Distributors who are also Producers	3
Number of Licences given to Graded Milk Distributors (Pasteurised)	1
Steps to make Register complete	Inspection.
Who undertakes Inspection	Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT SUPERVISION.

Slaughterhouses :—Licensed, 4 ; Registered, 5 ; Total, 9.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Premises inspected	40
Defects found	17
Defects remedied	16
Nuisances found	6
Nuisances abated	6
New Water Closets constructed	3
Drain Tests Carried Out	19
Drains reconstructed	14
Houses Disinfected	4
Visits to Slaughter Houses	7
Defects found	Nil.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no recognised Camping Sites in the City.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. HINCKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

R. T. STEWART,

Certificated Royal Sanitary Institute,
Sanitary Inspector.